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SUBJECT: CIVAIR

1. SERAFINI AT FON MIN INDICATES DESPITE OUTSTANDING REQUEST FROM ITALIAN EMBASSY WASHINGTON IT IS UNLIKELY ITALIAN SIDE WILL PROVIDE POSITION PAPER PRIOR TO OPENING OF NEGOTIATIONS. HE REPORTS GENERAL SANTINI PREFERS TO WAIT UNTIL NEGOTIATIONS BEGIN BEFORE SETTING FORTH ITALIAN POSITION SINCE SANTINI APPARENTLY CONSIDERS RECEPTION GIVEN HIS PREVIOUS ADVANCE PAPERS HAS BEEN DISAPPOINTING. ITALIAN SIDE WILL HAVE PRELIMINARY MEETING BUT FON MIN DOES NOT ANTICIPATE DECISION WILL BE ALTERED. SERAFINI EMPHASIZED ITALIAN RELUCTANCE TO SET FORTH VIEWS IN ADVANCE DOES NOT NECESSARLILY MEAN THEY INTEND TO START FROM POSITION CONTAINED IN SANTINI PAPER OF LAST JANUARY.

2. ITALIANS HAVE NOT YET DECIDED COMPOSITION OF THEIR DELEGATION BUT INDICATE IT WILL BE MADE UP OF "FACES FAMILIAR FROM PREVIOUS SESSIONS."

3. ITALIAN PRESS APRIL 2 CARRIED ANNOUNCEMENT OF APRIL 14 RESUMPTION OF NEGOTIATIONS. EMBASSY DOES NOT PLAN ANY OFFICIAL STATEMENT OR PRESS RELEASE ON SUBJECT. APRIL 2 EDITIONS DF IL SOLE 24 ORE AND LA STAMPA OF TURIN HAVE ARTICLES ON IMPENDING NEGOTIATIONS. IL SOLE SAYS OUTLOOK FOR A POSITIVE SOLUTION AT NEXT MEETING IS GOOD DESPITE SERIOUS DIFFICULTIES TO BE OVERCOME. MENTIONS ITALIAN REFUSAL OF 747 RIGHTS TO

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US CARRIERS UNTIL ALITALIA'S OWN 747S ARE READY AND AGAIN CITES POSTPONEMENT OF ATLAS CONSORTIUM DECISION ON PURCHASE OF WIDE-BODIED AIRCRAFT AS CONNECTED WITH US-ITALIAN NEGOTIATIONS AS WELL AS UNSPECIFIED DIFFICULTIES BETWEEN US AND FRANCE, BELGIUM AND GERMANY. BOTH ARTICLES MENTION PAST ITALIAN REQUEST FOR BEYOND RIGHTS TO LATIN AMERICA AND JAPAN AND U.S. EFFORTS TO OBTAIN AUSTRALIA AND AFRICAN RIGHTS. IL SOLE ALSO MENTIONS ATLANTA IN CONNECTION WITH PAST ALITALIA REQUESTS.

4. TWO APRIL 2 PRESS ARTICLES SEEM TO BE CHIEFLY A LISTING OF ISSUES WHICH HAVE ARISEN OVER YEARS IN THESE NEGOTIATIONS AND DO NOT APPEAR TO BE ELEMENT IN AN OFFICIAL PRESS CAMPAIGN. EMBASSY HAS NO INDICATION THAT ITALIANS INTEND TO RENEW REQUEST FOR MEXICAN OR TRANS-PACIFIC RIGHTS BUT THIS POSSIBILITY CANNOT BE EXCLUDED.
MARTIN

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